

# East Woodhay & Highclere Coronavirus Community Support



Highclere Society



EWH Neighbourcare



## Inside our Newsletter #25 – 18<sup>th</sup> December

- [Happy Christmas](#)
- [Want Someone to Talk With?](#)
- [Surgery](#)
- [Stay Safe at Christmas](#)
- [Latest Local Covid Cases](#)
- [From the Rector](#)
- [Food and Drink](#)
- [Foodbank](#)
- [Activities at Home](#)
- [Theatre](#)
- [Christmas Shopping](#)
- [Bin Collections](#)
- [Next Newsletter](#)

We are here for you – one number to have:

- prescriptions delivered
- shopping collected
- a friendly chat on the phone
- attending a medical appointment
- or someone to go for walk with

**01635 745 600**

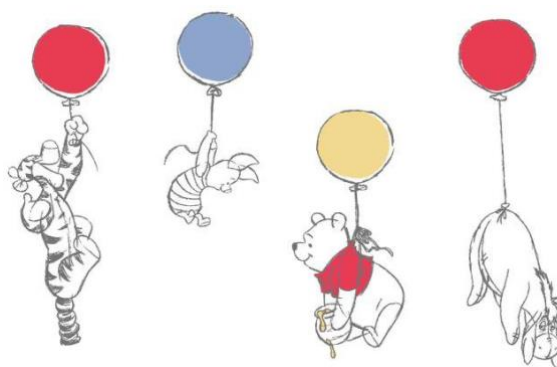


Over the festive period, please keep up to date with all the latest information by listening to local news and looking at this Facebook [PAGE](#) where there are frequent posts.

## Happy Christmas

We would all like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas. It has been a tough year for everyone, and we hope that these newsletters and the Neighbourcare services provided have helped.

As there is so much news to cover, especially around the latest COVID rule changes, newsletter 25 is certainly a bumper Christmas edition. Please do see all the latest updates on local shops and activities towards the end of the newsletter; there is plenty going on and much can be enjoyed from our own homes.



## Want Someone to Talk with?

If you are feeling lonely or fed up and would like to talk then don't forget you can call the local number **01635 745 600** to have a friendly voice to chat to.

## Surgery

The surgery will be open up to and including Christmas Eve (Thurs) and will open again on Tuesday 29th Dec.

Please take a moment to look at this video which Dr Heather Howells has produced. [HERE](#).

Dr Howells talks about the safety measures being taken by GP practices and that they are still open and here for you. Please call them with any worries or concerns you may have.

## Stay Safe at Christmas

The closer we get to Christmas the more complex and difficult the rules and regulations become on how Covid 19 affects our daily lives.

Although we have lived with Covid for nearly a year and a vaccine may be just around the corner, we all know it does not make it any less dangerous. We can all catch it, we can all spread it and unfortunately, no one is yet immune. Therefore, we all have a personal responsibility to prevent it spreading.

The simple guidance is if you don't have to mix with others outside your normal household, don't. The more people you mix with, particularly indoors at this time of year, the greater the chance that you will catch Covid-19 or pass it on.

No legislation can cover all situations. It is therefore broad in defining what you can and cannot do. But that does not mean it is a good thing to do everything that is permitted or that you must do it.

The very clear guidance, with a vaccination on its way, is for the time being to minimise your interaction with others to essential contacts, not those it would be nice to see. And if you decide to go ahead, do everything you can to cut down risk by keeping safe distancing, washing your hands regularly and for 20 seconds and wearing a face mask.

Let's try and make the situation as simple as possible to understand. It is more complicated for us than for most because we live on the border between a Tier 2 and a Tier 3 area.

### Do you know where you live?

Many people do not know if they are in Tier 2 or Tier 3. The dividing line is the county boundary which roughly speaking is the River Enborne

- If you live in Hampshire and pay your council tax to Basingstoke and Deane and HCC you are in Tier 2. So, Ball Hill, Woolton Hill and the other parts of East Woodhay, Highclere, Penwood, Burghclere, Newtown, Sydmonton, Ecchinswell, Headley, Kingsclere and Ashford Hill and all areas south of these districts are in Hampshire and Tier 2.
- If you live in W. Berks and pay your council tax to W. Berks you are in Tier 3. Wash Water, Wash Common, Enborne, West Woodhay, Inkpen, Hampstead Marshall and Kintbury are in W. Berks and Tier 3.

The Reading RG postcode is irrelevant but if you are still confused you can use your full postcode to check which Tier applies to you using this checker <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

### What are the main differences between Tiers 2 and 3?

#### • Meeting indoors

In both tiers you can only meet with people you live with or who are in your "bubble". In Tier 2 you can visit pubs and restaurants but only with your household or bubble, not with other friends and relations. In Tier 3 pubs and restaurants will be closed except for takeaways and you must not meet indoors in any other venues e.g. village halls.

#### • Meeting outdoors

In Tier 2 you can continue to meet friends and family you do not live with in groups of no more than 6 outdoors in a private garden or other outdoor space.

In Tier 3 meeting outdoors including private gardens and most outdoor public venues is banned. The exceptions are parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests, public gardens (whether or not you pay to enter them), allotments, the grounds of a heritage site, outdoor sports courts and facilities, playgrounds.

You can continue to meet in a group larger than 6 if you are all from the same household or support bubble, or another legal exemption applies.

- **Places of worship**

You can attend places of worship for a service in both tiers. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. You should follow [national guidance on the safe use of places of worship](#).

- **Businesses and Venues**

Most businesses and venues can remain open in Tier 2 but with some restrictions on opening times and the use by households and bubbles only.

In Tier 3 hospitality settings like bars, pubs, cafes etc must close except for takeaways, as must hotels, B&B's, campsites, holiday lets etc. Retail premises however can remain open as can community centres and halls, leisure and sports facilities, libraries and recycling and waste centres, car parks and public toilets and outdoor events and venues provided they are drive-in only. Most other entertainment venues and visitor attractions will shut.

- **Travelling**

You can travel within your Tier area but should avoid journeys across Tier boundaries other than for necessary visits to venues that are open including for work, shopping, health and education. So, the Newbury supermarkets and petrol stations are accessible but try to reduce your number of visits.

If you live in Tier 2 you can still travel to hotels and other guest accommodation but only with people in your household and support bubble.

If you live in Tier 3 you must not stay with anyone you do not live with elsewhere in the UK or visit their home (unless you share a support bubble).

You must continue to follow your Tier rules even when visiting a lower Tier area.

### **What happens at Christmas?**

At Christmas everything remains pretty much exactly the same with the exception that up to three different household bubbles can meet together. There is no limit to the size of a bubble so in theory you could invite a lot of people. But remember the more people you meet the greater the risk of catching or passing on the infection.

If you do decide to form a bubble, you should minimise the time you spend with them. The five-day period between the 23 December and 27 December is a maximum, not a target. Keep visits as short as you can because the risk of transmission increases the longer you spend together. You should not stay overnight unless absolutely unavoidable.

Between 23 to 27 December, if you form a Christmas bubble, do not meet with friends and family that you do not live with in your home or garden unless they are part of your Christmas bubble. You can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to the rules [in the tier](#) you are meeting people in, but should aim to minimise all non-essential contact. There are specific guidelines for those who have chosen to form a different Christmas bubble from the people they normally live with, and for those who choose not to form a Christmas bubble.

If someone is in your Christmas bubble, you can visit each other's homes. You can also go to a place of worship together or meet in public outdoor spaces.

You cannot meet your Christmas bubble in any other indoor setting, such as a pub, hotel, shop, theatre, or restaurant. In these settings, [rules on who you can and cannot meet depend on your tier](#).

We know that it's easier to catch and spread the virus in an indoor space, especially if there is little flow of fresh air. Therefore, when meeting your Christmas bubble you should take these measures to prevent the spread of the virus:

- wash your hands frequently
- clean touch points regularly, such as door handles and surfaces
- keep socially distanced from anybody you do not live with as much as possible
- make sure you let as much fresh air in as you can during a visit and after visitors have left, without getting cold, by opening windows and doors

People may continue to work in other people's homes where necessary, such as nannies, cleaners or tradespeople. To reduce risk, they should observe social distancing wherever possible, and where it can be avoided should not go into homes that are hosting Christmas bubbles.

It is important to cut down on social contact after seeing your Christmas bubble, to reduce the risk of chains of transmission. From 28 December, you must follow the guidance for the tier in your area, as a minimum. Christmas bubbles will no longer apply. In most places across the UK, that means you cannot mix with other households indoors, including on New Years' Eve.

This is just a summary of the main Covid regulations and guidelines. For more detail on specific aspects which may affect you go to one of the following:

Tier 2 Regulations: [Tier 2: High alert](#)

Tier 3 Regulations: [Tier 3: Very High alert](#)

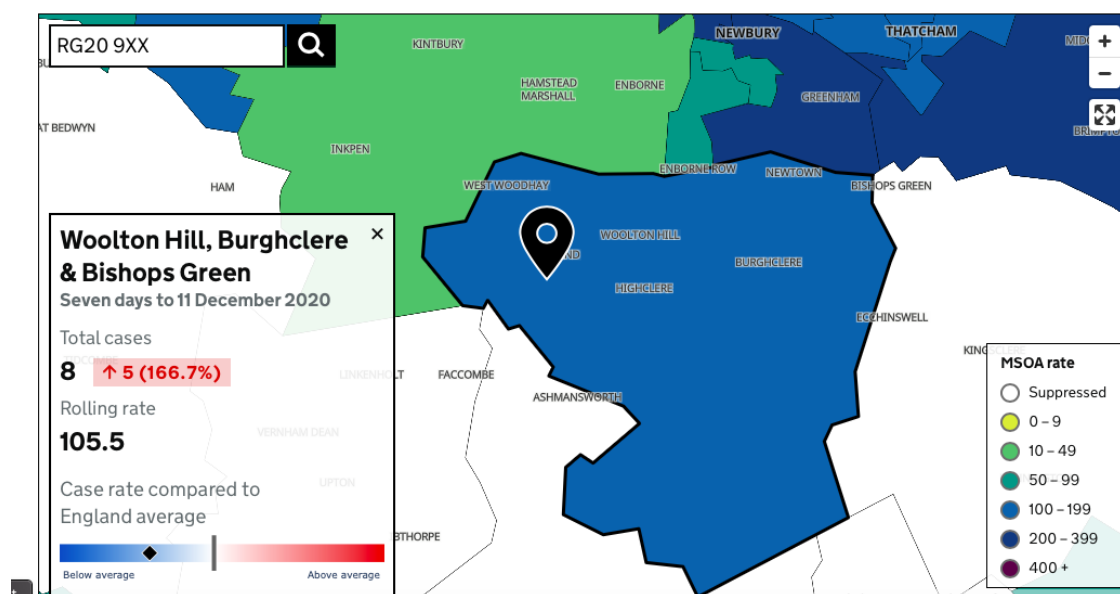
Christmas dispensations: [Making a Christmas bubble with friends and family](#)

In the interests of all please try to keep your Christmas festivities this year as small and as brief as possible.

## Latest Local COVID-19 Cases

Here are our recent numbers. Please note that although we are in Tier 2 and lower than the national average, our local area is higher than some in Tier 3 and also other adjacent rural areas.

Our recent historic information is stored [HERE](#). The link to the original data can be found [HERE](#)



## From the Rector: Revd Canon Christine Dale



The song of the angels rang out over the Bethlehem hills some 2,000 years ago, bringing news of peace and love through the gift of the Christchild. As we prepare to celebrate again this most amazing gift to our world we continue to live in challenging and worrying times. May we

remember that the message Jesus brought is unchanging, and we can follow the example of love he gave no matter what happens in the weeks to come.

I rejoice in the way our community groups have joined together under Neighbourcare during the year as we have co-ordinated our local response and support. We have undoubtedly been able to more together than apart. Thank you!

### Christmas Services

We are planning Christmas services, please see our Christmas leaflet [HERE](#). As reported in the last newsletter we ask you to request attendance this year please so that we can maximise the capacity of our church buildings while observing the relevant guidelines. There are still a few seats available at all services except those in St James' Church, Ashmansworth, which is now fully booked. You can enter your request using the online form [HERE](#).

*Booking for the 'Come to Bethlehem' Nativity in St Thomas' Church on 19<sup>th</sup> December is now closed.*



### Scarecrow Nativity

#### **at St Michael & All Angels' Church, Highclere**

During December Mary, Joseph and the donkey have been journeying around Highclere and will arrive outside church ready for this Sunday, when they will be joined by other characters from the Nativity. Why not walk past the church when taking your exercise and have a look...



### Bethlehem Stable

#### **on the green in Ashmansworth**

There is a Bethlehem Stable depicting the nativity on the green in Ashmansworth. Perhaps stop by on your daily exercise.

### 'Hands of Peace' banner

#### **at St Thomas' Church, Woolton Hill**

Many hands come together to make peace. The banner has been made by children and grown-ups and made its debut at the Junior School Christmas Service this week. See it outside St Thomas' Church, Woolton Hill.



with every blessing to you all

Rev. Canon Christine Dale  
(e-mail: [cdale001@btinternet.com](mailto:cdale001@btinternet.com), Tel. 01635 253323)



## Food & Drink

**Carpenters at Burghclere** – are open and also have Turkey dinners every day; click [HERE](#) for all details.

**Highclere Red House** – are serving dinners to eat in Tuesday - Saturday, 12pm to 10pm. Takeaway and delivery services will remain exactly as they have been 12pm - 9pm Tuesday to Saturday (including Christmas Eve). click [HERE](#)

**Furze Bush** – are open for lunch, dinner or just a coffee and also for a takeaway service. Hours of opening are from 12-10pm and serving food between 12-3pm and 5-8pm weekdays and 12-8pm weekends. click [HERE](#)

**Jack Russell Inn** has a 'heated outside' option click [HERE](#) for all details as well as the Christmas options.

**Rampant Cat** – is not open for food and drink on the premises but are open on Friday to Sunday takeaway only click [HERE](#) for menu and ordering details.

**The Pheasant Highclere** also has 'heated outside' option click [HERE](#) for all the booking information you need.

### Farm shops

- Saddleback Farm shop Brightwalton, open daily plus takeaway café click [HERE](#)  
Christmas trees are now half price

**Fruit & veg & Christmas produce** - Fisher of Newbury - delivery slots still available for week com 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – to book click [HERE](#)

**Thatcham Refillable** provide a range of refillable household products – they will be delivering in our area on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. For details Click [HERE](#)

---

## Foodbank

**West Berks Food Bank** urgently needs supplies, especially Tinned Fish, Custard, Rice Pudding, Sponge Puddings, Sugar, Tinned Fruit. To see the full list of items of those low in stock and for all information click [HERE](#). Donations can be made to the stores listed or dropped off at 13 Douglas Ride Woolton Hill RG20 9UG

---

## Activities at Home

**Christmas Day Activities** – if you find you would like some company on Christmas Day, the WEA has organised a series of drop-in Zoom sessions where you can chat online with like-minded folk. The timetable is :-

- 09:00-10:00 - **Christmas (virtual) Walk in Dorset/Sussex**
- 10:30-11.30 - **Christmas carols** – *join in with some of your favourite Christmas carols*
- 11.30-12:30 - **Christmas Games** – *participate in a variety of fun games*
- 13:00-14:00 - **Christmas cooking through the ages** - *a discussion*
- 14:30-15:30 - **The Queen's Speech** - *watch and discuss with a drink and mince pie*
- 16:00-17:00 - **Funny poems** – *share your funny poems or listen to others*
- 17:30-18:30 - **Festive Crafts** – *learn how to make a festive wreath*
- 19:00-20:00 - **Christmas quiz** – *participate in a fun festive quiz*
- 20:30-21:30 - **Christmas songs sing-a-long and guess**– *join in to favourite tunes*

Join in at any time during the day - click [HERE](#)

**DIY Upholstery** – New Milton Men’s Shed have a 14 minute video teaching you how to upholster a chair. Click [HERE](#)

**Quizzes** – Marie Curie celebrity quizzes available to view on line [HERE](#)

**Quizzes & fun activities from Tate Kids** A host of 10 minute fun art & craft quizzes and activities (you don’t need to be a kid or even very arty to enjoy!) click [HERE](#)

**Keep Fit** – the Body Coach 10 minutes a day workouts – feel better about eating those mince pies??? Click [HERE](#)



---

## Theatre

**Panto online** – Jack & the Beanstalk available to Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, including family activity pack, for details click [HERE](#)

**Watermill Theatre** production of ‘A Christmas Carol’ is available to view on demand until 3<sup>rd</sup> January on a range of platforms – for tickets click [HERE](#)

**National Theatre at home** – new streaming service launching a play a month, for details click [HERE](#)



---

## Christmas Shopping

Here are some ideas on how you can support local, independent businesses

**‘The Borough Basket’** – one website for small businesses and craftspeople from Basingstoke and surrounding villages – new stores added! Click [HERE](#)

**The Dolls House Shop** in Whitchurch – visit on Saturdays 10am – 3pm or order on-line click [HERE](#)

**Craft Fair** outside the Carpenters at Burghclere, 9 till 12 Saturday and Sunday morning 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, pub open for tea/coffee , mince pies & bacon sandwiches from 8.30am.

---

## Bin Collections over Christmas / New Year

 Basingstoke and Deane

**Christmas and New Year collections 2020/21**

**Recycling and waste**  
These dates do not apply to garden waste collections

Usual collection	Revised collection	Change
Friday 25 Dec	Monday 28 Dec	Three days later
Monday 28 Dec	Tuesday 29 Dec	One day later
Tuesday 29 Dec	Wednesday 30 Dec	One day later
Wednesday 30 Dec	Thursday 31 Dec	One day later
Thursday 31 Dec	Saturday 2 Jan	Two days later
Friday 1 Jan	Monday 4 Jan	Three days later
Monday 4 Jan	Tuesday 5 Jan	One day later
Tuesday 5 Jan	Wednesday 6 Jan	One day later
Wednesday 6 Jan	Thursday 7 Jan	One day later
Thursday 7 Jan	Friday 8 Jan	One day later
Friday 8 Jan	Saturday 9 Jan	One day later

To keep up to date with any changes please visit  
[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/festive-bin-collections](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/festive-bin-collections)

There are no garden waste collections between 21<sup>st</sup> Dec to 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.

## Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be in the New Year following any Government review of the COVID situation.

**Merry  
Christmas**



## East Woodhay & Highclere Coronavirus Community Support



Highclere Society



EWB Neighbourcare

